GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)
General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

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YAQUI BOY SOLDIERS AND THEIR SIGNAL DRUM OF DRIED DEERSKIN

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Santo Domingo: First Love and Last Resting Place of Columbus[1]

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, in placing the great western hemisphere on the map of the world, left his impress more deeply on what is now the Dominican Republic than on any other bit of land in the New World.

The very name of the capital of the republic, Santo Domingo, whose wardship under the United States has been under public discussion recently, is a family affair with the Columbuses. The great discoverer named for his father this first permanent city established by Europeans in the Americas. The same name is applied to the island of which the republic is a part almost as commonly as its aboriginal name, Haiti; and, finally, the paternal name is further perpetuated in that of the Republic itself.

Republic Holds Ashes of America's Discoverer

The remains of Columbus are believed by investigators who have examined the evidence in the case to lie in the Cathedral in Santo Domingo City. The body of the discoverer was brought to the island of his early triumphs from Spain, where he died, and was placed beside that of his son, Diego. It was thought that the Spaniards removed the remains of Christopher Columbus when they transferred sovereignty of the island to the French in 1795. It appears from later examinations of the burial vaults of the Cathedral, however, that the casket which was borne in such great state from Santo Domingo to Havana at the end of the eighteenth century, and from Havana to Spain a hundred years later, contained instead the ashes of Diego, the son.

The city of Santo Domingo grew to be a wonderful place during the early days of Spanish dominion, but Columbus did not live to see much of the development. His son, Diego Columbus, however, engraved the family name deeper on the city and the country of which it was the capital, setting up there a court of such regal splendor that it aroused the envy of the Spanish king.

Slaves Seize Power

Santo Domingo seemed destined to become the bustling metropolis of a western empire. But it became the victim of exploitation. After a turbulent history, during which the native Indians were exterminated and thousands of African slaves were imported, the latter, assisted by mulatto freemen, rose, in the last years of the eighteenth century, abolished slavery, and drove their oppressors from the island. Though the land of the Dominican Republic reverted for a while to Spanish control, and later was conquered by the Republic of Haiti, with which it shares the island, it established its independence in 1844 and has retained its individuality since.

The territory which now constitutes the Dominican Republic has been subject at different periods to a number of nations. It has been twice under the rule of Spain and has been controlled at other times by French, English and Haitians.

[1] See also "Haiti: Magic Isle of the Indies," Bulletin No. 1, November 22, 1920.

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THE TOMB OF COLUMBUS IN THE CATHEDRAL OF SANTO DOMINGO CITY: SANTO DOMINGO

When the Spaniards undertook to remove the ashes of the great discoverer from Santo Domingo to Havana, they apparently made a mistake and took the casket containing the bones of his son, Diego, instead; for later, when the cathedral was being remodeled, a leaden casket was found, the inscriptions on and in which tend conclusively to show that it contains Christopher Columbus' ashes. Care was taken to establish the identity of the casket found, and practically every unbiased investigator agrees that the ashes of Columbus repose in the Cathedral of Santo Domingo instead of at Sculla, Spain.

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Along Our Turbulent Border

(This is the first of a series of bulletins on the borderlands of the United States of America.)

NO region in all North America is more frequently mentioned or more widely misunderstood, perhaps, than the Mexican border," writes Frederick Simpich, formerly American Consul at Nogales, Mexico, to the National Geographic Society.

"From the Gulf of Mexico up to El Paso, along the Texas frontier, the Rio Grande forms the boundary between the United States and Mexico; thence to the Pacific Coast the line is marked by stone or iron monuments (save a short break at the Colorado), so set that one is supposed to be visible from another. By this plan a soldier, miner, or cowman (yes, and a smuggler, too) can always tell which side of the line he is on; or, if wholly lost and he comes suddenly on a monument, he can soon get oriented.

Few People Have Traversed Mexican Line

"Adventurous, colorful, and full of contrasts as it is, the 1,800-mile trip along this crooked, historic line is rough and difficult and has been made by few people.

"The Rio Grande part of this border has caused both Uncle Sam and Mexico much work and mental anguish. During bad floods the line as formed by the river squirms around in so astonishing and lively a manner that what is Mexican soil one day may be in Texas the next, and vice versa.

"Railroads cut this long border line at Brownsville, Laredo, Eagle Pass, and El Paso, Texas; at Douglas, Naco, and Nogales, in Arizona, and at Calexico and Tia Juana, in California. Only four of these railroads, however, are main lines of through traffic that penetrate the interior of Mexico; these start at Laredo, Eagle Pass, El Paso, and Nogales.

"You visualize the bigness of Texas when you look at the length of its side that borders on Mexico. You realize its emptiness, too, when you travel through some of its border regions, where the population is less than two per square mile.

One Section Has Known Six Flags

"No section of the border has seen so much of adventure, tragedy, and turbulent activity as Texas. The flags of France, Spain, and Mexico have waved over it; for a time it flew its own Lone Star and also the Confederate flag.

"In Brownsville you hear more Spanish than English, because most of the 8,000 people who live there are Mexicans.

"Up the river from Brownsville lies Laredo, most important border town in south Texas, even if an old map does call this vicinity 'a wilderness filled with wild horses.'

"Eagle Pass, on up the Rio Grande, was a favorite camping spot for the California gold-hunters in '49.

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The Spanish influence has been the strongest, and the language of Spain and many of its customs and institutions are those of the Dominicans of today.

The Dominican Republic is peopled largely by mulattoes. While it has not been so badly torn by revolutions as the "Black Republic" to the west, its history has by no means been one of peaceful development, and assassinations and coups have played their part in determining the succession of its rulers.

San Domingo Almost Annexed to United States

A few years after the close of the Civil War in the United States the Dominican Republic sought annexation to this country. President Grant sent a commissioner to the island, an annexation treaty was drafted and adopted by the Dominican Senate, and its acceptance by the American Senate was recommended by our President. The Senate failed to act favorably on the matter and San Domingo has continued its independent existence. The country has been assisted by the United States, however, in the administration of its fiscal affairs since 1905. After it had entered financial straits and foreign creditors were threatening intervention, President Roosevelt arranged a treaty under which an American collector of customs was appointed. A certain part of the collections has been paid to the Dominican government and the remainder into a fund from which creditors are paid.

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Modern Tatoi and Ancient Athens

CONSTANTINE, whose return to the throne of Greece began to be discussed after the death of Alexander brought about new elections in Greece, had a famous summer palace at Tatoi, before his abdication. There he spent much time during the final uneasy months of his reign.

Tatoi is sixteen miles north of Athens by way of Kephisia. In strong contrast to the harsh and stormy political situation which has encompassed the members of the royal family following the outbreak of the World War, their physical environment was wholly delightful, for Tatoi is one of the most beautiful spots of Attica, nestling almost at the foot of the Parnes Mountains. In the distance towers the famous Pentelikon, from whose summit one may obtain the finest view to be had from any of the Attic hills.

Historically, Tatoi is noteworthy for being freighted with unhappy associations. In its vicinity stand the ruins of an old fort, known as the Kastro, which marks the center of the deme (township) of Decelea.

When Athens Fell—And How

It was at Decelea, 12 miles in an airline north of Athens, that the traitor Alcibiades, he of whom Aristophanes wrote that "they (the Athenian soldiers) love, they hate, but cannot live without him," counseled the Spartans to construct strong fortifications in order to intercept the caravans of grain from Euboea, which supplied the capital with food. Alcibiades, by his betrayal of the Athenian navy which had invested Syracuse in Sicily, had already fulfilled the prophecy of the misanthrope Timon, who had said upon one of the many occasions when the young Athenian's rash proposals had been indorsed by the populace: "Go on, my brave boy, and prosper; for your prosperity will bring on the ruin of all this crowd." His advice to seize and fortify Decelea in 413 B. C. brought irretrievable ruin on his native city and resulted in an inestimable loss to the human race, for it crushed Athens.

By one of the strange whims of "the crowd," the Athenian army in its darkest hour sent a message to Alcibiades, inviting him to desert the Spartans, into whose power he had betrayed his own people. And by an equally strange whim Alcibiades accepted the invitation, rushing to Samos to assume command of his old associates. But it was too late. Athens was doomed. Lysander, commanding the Spartan navy, administered a crushing defeat to Athenian sea power at Aegospotami, on the Hellespont. Three thousand of the defeated Athenians were massacred, and Xenophon, the historian, with tragic simplicity relates that when the news reached the capital, "That night no man slept."

Would Not "Put Out One of the Eyes of Greece"

Lysander's subsequent operations against Athens were effected with aid of a Spartan army whose base was in the neighborhood of modern Tatoi. When the city finally fell (404 B. C.) there were many Hellenic cities which urged the

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"As you follow the border west, oaks, pines, and underbrush decrease, aridity increases, and cacti lift their thorny heads. Border counties like Brewster, Presidio, and El Paso are of amazing area—larger than some of our small eastern States. Windmills are everywhere—'big electric fans to keep the cattle cool,' a waggish cowboy once explained to a London tenderfoot.

El Paso Only City for 1,500 Miles

"El Paso is the only large city from 'San Antone' to Los Angeles, a ride of 1,500 dry, dusty miles.

"The largest irrigation reservoir anywhere is the great Elephant Butte dam, which stores more water than the world-famous Assuan dam on the Nile. This big dam, built in the Rio Grande above El Paso, at a point in New Mexico, holds water enough, we are told, 'to fill a standpipe 11 feet in diameter reaching from El Paso to the moon, or to cover Massachusetts to a depth of six inches!'

"From the point at Monument No. 1, where the boundary line crawls out of the Rio Grande (at the southeast corner of New Mexico), it strikes west into a wilderness of singularly dry and empty aspect. For 40 miles along this march the traveler must carry his own water.

Point Marks Continental Divide

"To the west lie the rough, hostile foothills of the Dog Mountains; near here, in the San Luis Range, the line reaches a point of 6,600 feet above the sea, marking the continental divide.

"In the San Bernardino Valley the line strikes the first running water after quitting the Rio Grande—192 miles to the east. Here rises the famous Yaqui River, that long, crooked stream that meanders through the vast Mexican State of Sonora and through the turbulent Yaqui Indian Zone, finally emptying into the Gulf of California below Guaymas.

"In the whole 700-mile stretch from the Rio Grande to the Pacific, this line crosses only five permanent running streams, and the average rainfall throughout its length is only eight inches.

"Save the hamlets of Columbus and Hachita, the New Mexican section of this border is almost uninhabited."

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The Grasshopper: Musician, Monster and Aviator

ONCE more the ravenous grasshopper wrought devastation upon western fields this fall, and the plague became especially destructive in Texas. Writing to the National Geographic Society, David Fairchild describes this fascinating, if ruthless, creature as follows:

"The young king grasshopper is probably twenty days old, and its wings have not developed, but it can jump a hundred times its length, whereas man can scarcely cover three times his length at a leap. When its wings grow and its internal air sacs fill with air it can sail away for miles. One representative of this great family can sail for a thousand miles before the wind, and they go in such numbers that they make a cloud 2,000 square miles in extent.

Tiny Creature Has Appetite of a Hippopotamus

"Its great front lip hides a pair of jaws as effective as a hay-chopper, and it has an appetite as voracious as that of a hippopotamus. This voraciousness and these jaws are what have made several of its relatives the plague of mankind. They multiply in such numbers as to baffle all calculation, and every living green thing for thousands of square miles disappears down their throats, leaving the country they infest desolate. The great famine of Egypt, mentioned in the book of Exodus; the grasshopper years of Kansas, which ruined thousands of families on our plains, and more recent devastations in Argentina and South Africa are examples of the tremendous effects which the migratory locusts have had upon the happiness of mankind.

"As this young king grasshopper stands looking so inquiringly at one with his varicolored eyes, each of which is composed of hundreds of facets, I cannot help thinking that he represents a creature quite as fascinating and actually more dangerous than the East African monsters of our school geographies.

"A baby creature, scarcely two weeks since it issued from a grasshopper egg, and yet with two moults behind it—two bright green baby skins cast off!

Must Rely on Six Legs for a Time

"Imagine looking forward, as this baby creature does, to the day when the pads on its back shall have grown so long and parchment-like that it can leave its hopping terrestrial existence and sail away across the fields. Until that time, however, it must be content with its six springy legs, pushing its way among the blades of grass, tasting everything green and eating what it likes, and hiding from its enemies when moulting time comes round.

"A young chick finds itself shut inside the egg-shell and must work its way out alone, but the young grasshoppers when they hatch out find themselves—the whole nestful—shut in a hardened case in the ground made by their mother, and it takes a half dozen of them working together to dislodge the lid which shuts them in.

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conquerors to destroy the capital completely and convert the site into pastureland, just as they had done at Plataea, but the Spartans declared, with seeming magnanimity but secretly, perhaps, with the shrewd desire to maintain a check against Thebes and Corinth, that "they could not put out one of the eyes of Greece." So the ruins of the Parthenon, of the temple of the Olympian Zeus, of the Theater of Dionysus and other priceless remains were preserved to guide modern students of Attic civilization and to amaze the esthetic sense of countless generations.

Perhaps Tatoi would never have had such rueful associations had the impetuous young Alcibiades only listened to the teachings of his master, Socrates; but the boy, as he himself relates, "was forced to stop his ears and flee away, that he might not sit down by the side of the great teacher and grow old in listening."

Tatoi is reached today by a railway journey of eight and a half miles to Kephisia, and a carriage drive of seven and a half miles from that point. The new summer palace was built for the king and the old palace was designed as the residence of the crown prince. A beautiful park and a venerable oak grove surround the royal homes. A short distance to the north is the barracks of the rural police, known as the Chorophylakes.

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GREEK PEASANT STANDING BEFORE HIS HOUSE

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Women the Financiers of a Forgotten Kingdom

ALONG busy highways of ocean travel, land links between Japan and Formosa, not far from China's coastwise routes, yet visited by only two or three white persons a year—such are the Loo Choo (Luchu or Ryukyu) Islands.

"Loo Choo is a land full of indescribable charm and mystery of the Orient, but replete with the pathos of a vanishing race," writes Roy Chapman Andrews to the National Geographic Society.

"But, although it has been 40 years since there sounded the death knell of this little hidden kingdom, Loo Choo is not yet Japan. The traveler realizes this even before he lands. The pine-clothed, tomb-dotted hills which form the background of the strange little cities of Naha and Shuri have an unfamiliar look and the pretty tiled roofs of the diminutive houses, just visible over the surrounding gray stone walls, give fascinating hints of what may be found beyond their lacquered gateways. On their entire 900 square miles of land only one white man, an American missionary, is resident.

Loo Choo Home of Famous Lacquer Ware

"With our money changed we began to look about to spend it, for Loo Choo is the home of the red lacquer ware famous throughout the world. Much of it is exported, and the finest of the boxes, bowls, trays, tables, etc., which are in daily use in Japan and China and sold to tourists throughout the Orient, come from the little city of Naha, or Shuri, its neighbor across the hills. The lacquer ware, when first made, is a dull brown, but really first-class pieces improve with age and soon change to a beautiful vermilion, becoming brighter and clearer the longer they are used.

"When we came to buy lacquer we were greatly surprised to find that bargaining had no place in Loo Choo. Without exception, the first price asked for an article was the one for which it was sold. Never in the Orient had we met with a similar condition.

Market Resembles Suffrage Meeting Place

"It was interesting to find, also, that the women of Loo Choo conduct all business and have charge of everything pertaining to money—with the single slight exception of spending it. The market, where in the morning trading for vegetables and fruit is carried on, resembles a suffrage meeting place, for among the crowded mass of humanity not a man is to be seen.

"The straight backs and erect carriage of the Loo Choo women are due to the custom of carrying everything upon their heads. No matter what the object, be it large or small, it is perched upon their thick, black hair, and off they walk in the most nonchalant manner, apparently paying not the slightest attention to keeping the object in place.

"The most striking things about Naha and Shuri are the high stone walls which surround the houses. These walls are generally covered by a small banyan tree,

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Infant Is "All Legs and Mouth"

"When the young grasshopper emerges from the egg, it is very small indeed—a wingless, helpless little creature, all legs and mouth.

"It passes through successive ages, or stages, as they are called, each one of which is separated from the other by a moult or casting of its outer shell.

"These moults take place at fixed periods, and as the insect finds itself restrained by its firm, inelastic skeleton, a longitudinal rent occurs along the back, and the insect, soft and dangerously helpless, struggles out of the old skin inclosed in a new but delicate cuticle, which takes some time to harden and color up.

May Have Sense Humans Do Not Possess

"Whether this creature has a personality or not may be forever extremely difficult for humans to decide. Its eyes that look like cows' eyes really cast a thousand images on a special kind of brain, so different from our own that we cannot understand it, and then besides these great big eyes it has three others. Its short-ringed horns are not horns at all, but sense organs of so complicated a nature that we do not yet know certainly whether they are organs of smell or not, and it is supposed that they may be the seat of sense organs that we humans do not have.

"In front of the great thighs embedded on each side of the body, are the so-called ears, tuned no doubt to catch vibrations of the air far too delicate or too frequent for our ears.

"The jumping legs of the creature are filled with powerful muscles, which when they expand can hurl it through the air and enable it to escape from its enemies. On the inner side, along the lower rib of the wing, is the musical instrument. It is a row of hard, bead-like projections, which are very highly developed in the males, but not at all in the females. When the edge of the wing is scraped over these projections, a musical sound is made. It would seem to be the case, as with so many of the birds, that only the male can sing, the female being mute."

Bulletin No. 4, December 6, 1920.

called the goja maru, growing like a great vine and sending out numberless roots which sometimes reach a hundred feet from the original stem.

"These also serve as hiding places for a snake, a kind of adder, six or seven feet long, which is the curse of the islands. Their bite is generally fatal in a few hours, and many people are killed by them each year."

Bulletin No. 5, December 6, 1920

PEASANTS AND FLOCK, NEAR EPIDAURUS, GREECE (See Bulletin No. 3)